

INEBRIETY A MENTAL DISEASE.

The following questions proposed by the English examiners in psychological medicine to the candidates for certificates, show that inebriety is recognized among the mental diseases of the old world.

"What forms of mental disorder may be classed under alcoholic insanity?"

"Trace the relationship of alcohol and syphilis to general paralysis.

"Describe the condition commonly known as chronic alcoholism; give the prognosis and treatment."—Quarterly Journal of Inebriety. L. F. B.

MELANCHOLIA AND OTHER DEPRESSIVE MENTAL AFFECTIONS IN OTOPIC DISORDERS OF THE EAR. Boucheron, *Gazette des Hôpitaux*, p. 1,184, 1887.

That affections of the ear may produce various nervous symptoms, such as vertigo, convulsions, mental depression, and even mania, is acknowledged. These symptoms have however, in cases thus far published, always been the result of gross lesions of the ear, and the relation between cause and effect has been easily recognizable.

B. here refers to a class of irradiated nervous affections caused particularly by obstruction of the Eustachian tube, which the atmospheric pressure not being counterbalanced (on account of the vacuum in the tympanic cavity) produces an excitation of the labyrinth and of the acoustic nerve, by compression—otopiesis.

In such a condition the excitation may be transmitted to the nervous centres, and various symptoms, according to the predisposition of the patient, may be produced. If transmitted to the medulla oblongata or to the cord, this excitation causes epilepsy, pseudo-meningitis, or various forms of convulsions; if to the cerebellum, disorders of equilibration, vertigo, rotary movements, etc.; if to the cerebrum and cortex, light or severe mental symptoms, with the predominant character of depression. The less severe symptoms are: loss or diminution of memory, of power of reflexion, and of quickness of conception, diminution of affec-

tion for relatives, ideas of suspicion, defiance, persecution, and hypochondriasis. The severe symptoms may be those of acute melancholia, insanity with delirium, hallucinations, and illusions of hearing, loss of consciousness, &c.

The treatment of these symptoms is self-evident. Insufflations of air into the Eustachian tube. G. W. J.

THERAPEUTICS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

TREATMENT OF DISEASE BY NERVE-PRESSURE.

Dr. Anders Wide (*Nordiskt Medicinskt Arkiv.*, Nov. 10, 1887,) reports three cases treated by nerve-pressure, a method originated by Ling. The first, a woman twenty years old, suffered from tremblings of the promotor and supinator muscles of the arm, causing oscillations in the arm and hand at the rate of two hundred a minute. Pressure was made upon the radial and median nerves about the middle of the humerus, first with the fingers, then with a tourniquet, in the beginning from two to four hours, then eight to ten later. After eleven days of treatment, during which the tourniquet was applied seven times, the tremblings ceased. This was a case in which electricity and other remedial measures had proved of no avail. A spasm of the spinal accessory of the right side, drawing the head backward and to the left with such force that the patient was often obliged to hold it with both hands to prevent suffocation, was greatly relieved by nerve-pressure. Strong and continued pressure with the fingers was made on the nerve at its entry into the trapezius muscle. Afterwards a strap in the form of a figure of eight bandage round the shoulders to exercise a sustained pressure upon the nerve. This insured freedom of breathing. The third case—paresis and atrophy of the right forearm in a girl of eleven—was rapidly benefited by pressure upon the radial nerve. Electricity, massage, and medical gymnastics had been tried in vain. The power of contraction returned to the affected muscles, and the nutrition of the arm gradually improved. The author claims to have brought about some beneficial